

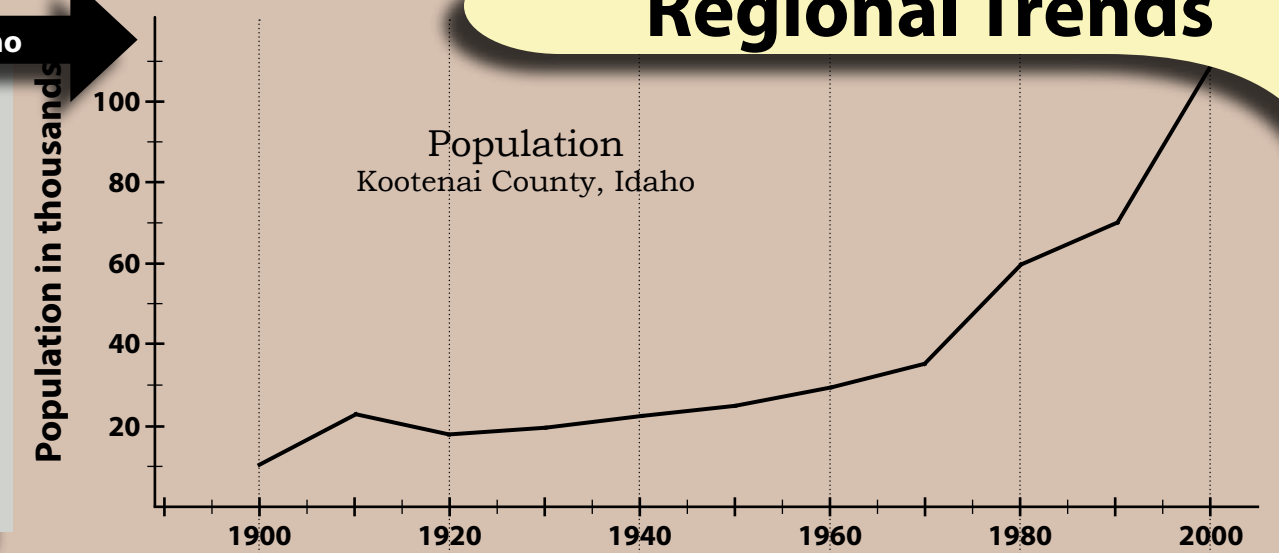
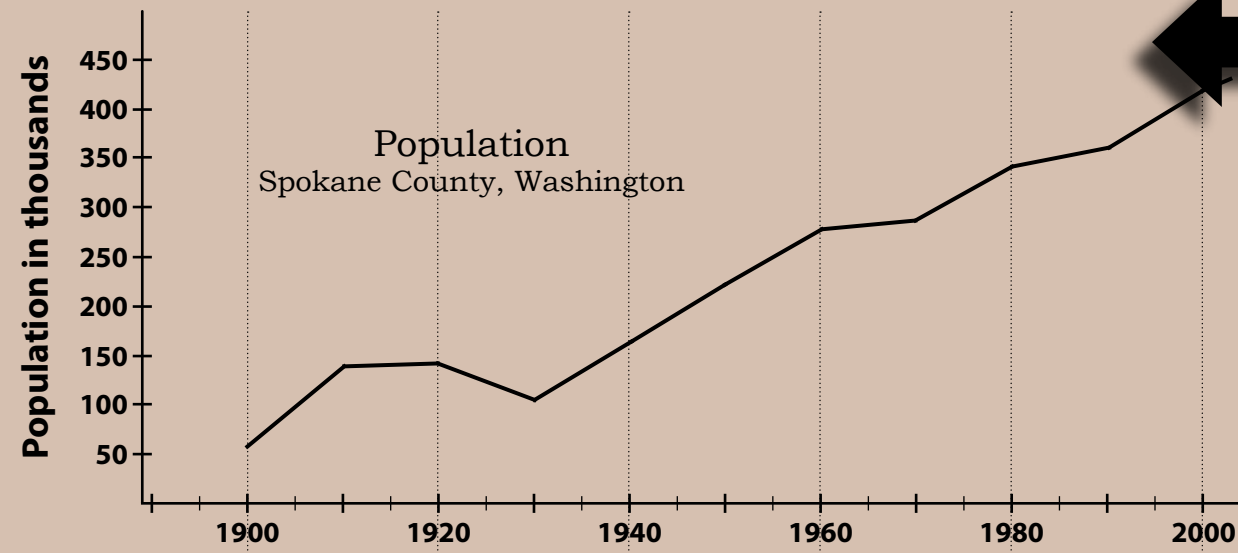
Regional Trends

Washington

Idaho

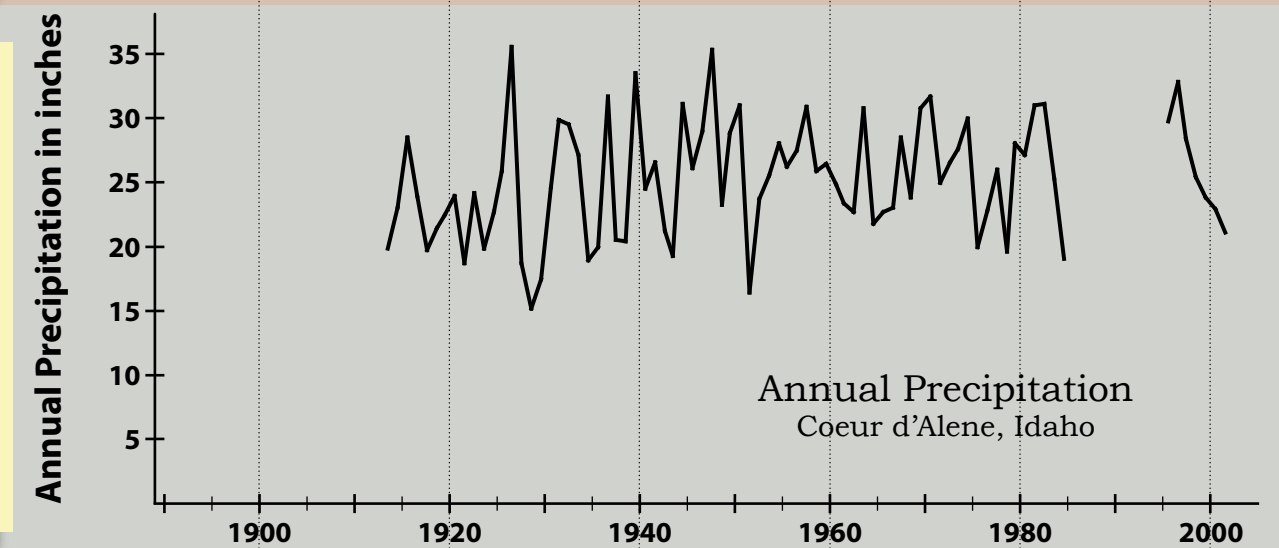
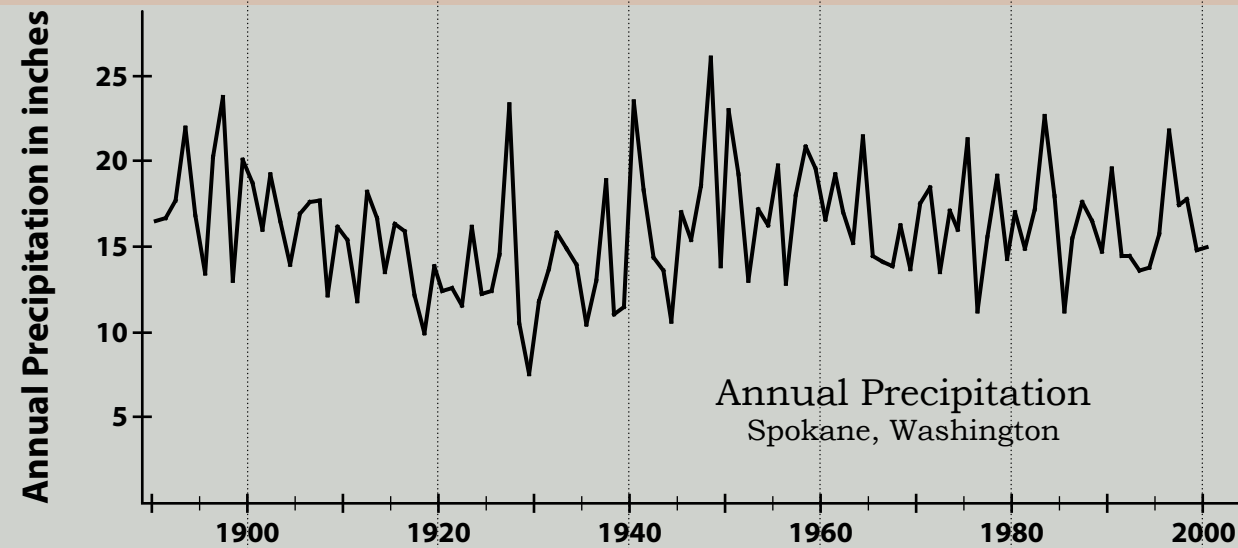
Population

The region's population has grown in the past 100 years with the exception of a dip in 1920-1930. While the growth rate in Spokane County has remained stable since 1930, Kootenai County experienced a sharp population increase in 1990. A growing population requires an increasing amount of potable water, and the demand for Aquifer water continues to grow.



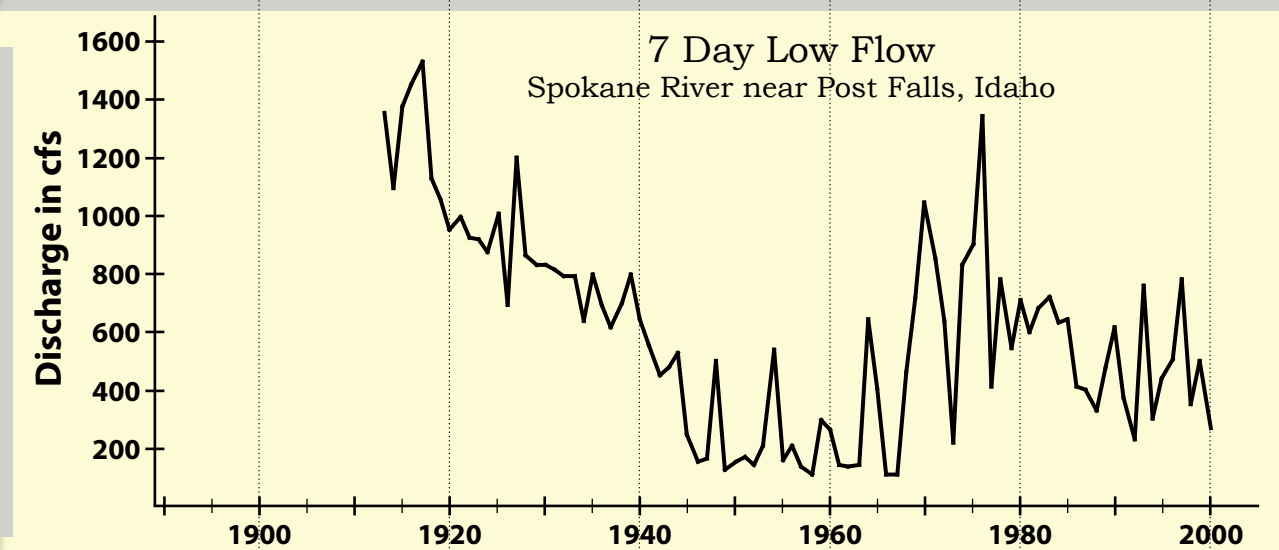
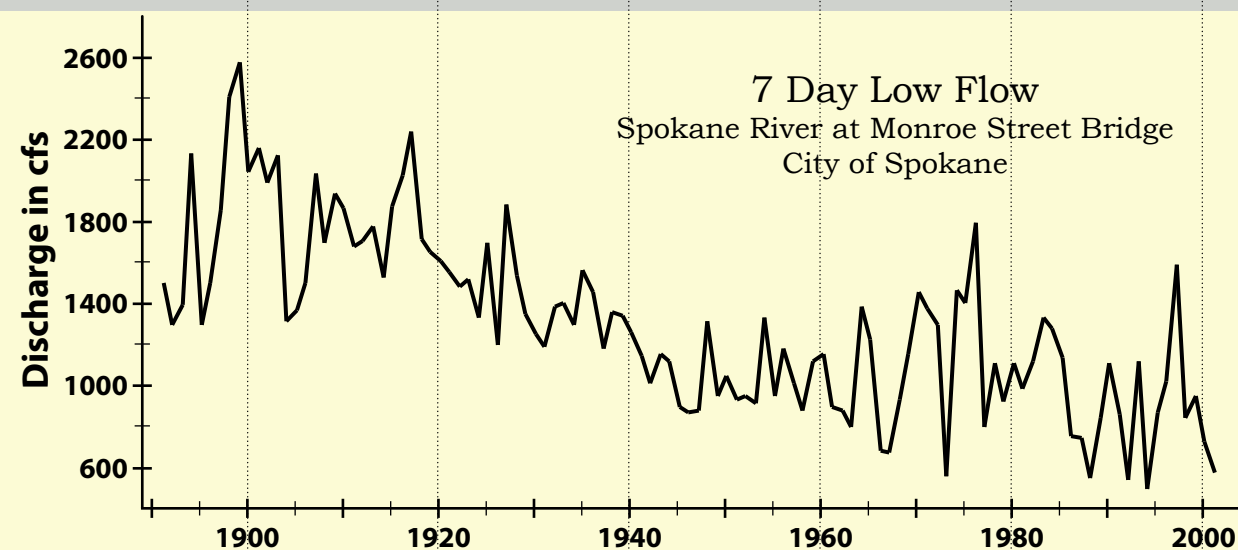
Annual Precipitation

The annual precipitation varies across the Aquifer, increasing from west to east. The average annual precipitation in Spokane is about 16 inches, while it is over 25 inches in Coeur d'Alene. Precipitation is the primary Aquifer recharge source, and annual variation in precipitation is reflected in the Aquifer monitoring wells maintained by the USGS.



7 Day Low Flow

The 7 day low flow of the Spokane River shows a continuous downward trend both in the City of Spokane (left) and in Post Falls (right). In Post Falls, the river 7 day low flow has decreased 600 cfs between 1910 and 2000. For the same period in Spokane, the 7 day low flow has decreased about 700 cfs. This decrease is not fully understood, and it may have several causes.



Ground Surface to Aquifer

Variations in the depth from ground surface to Aquifer are related to several factors, including precipitation, water withdrawals, and river flow. Compare the Spokane River 7 day low flow and precipitation graphs with the depth to Aquifer graphs, and you may see similarities in general fluctuations and trends.

